

December 2009

FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Climb to the Summit of Success

The Jobs for Montana's Graduates program held its 16th Annual Montana Career Association Fall Leadership Conference on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 in Helena at the Red Lion Colonial Inn. This year's conference was a success thanks to the attendance and participation of over one hundred eighty-four Montana Career Association student officers and forty-one Jobs for Montana's Graduates Career Specialists from across the state.

The Montana Career Association (MCA) is a student-led organization and is an integral part of the Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG) program. As elected officers, students have the responsibility to lead their organization. As members of the MCA organization students will engage in career exploration, participate in civic & service learning projects, attend leadership development events and plan social awareness activities.

The conference opened with a presentation of the flags by The Montana Youth ChallengeNGe cadets followed by Nashua High School students Tabetha Boushey & Ryan Dahl singing the Star

Spangled Banner. Marti Johnson from the Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) closed out the opening ceremony with a brief overview of services available to students through SAF.



Linda Williams

This year's conference presenter was Linda Williams from the Leadership and Team Development Company "Training Wheels." Linda's agenda included engaging students in interactive leadership and team building activities through the use of card games, a connectivity ball, Simon says and a community puzzle. Linda shared her energy and enthusiasm with the students throughout the day. Students, specialists and guests were then joined by Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger and Depart-

ment of Labor & Industry Commissioner, Keith Kelly, for a presentation of national, state, student and specialist JMG awards. The awards ceremony was followed by lunch. Afternoon activities included continued interactive sessions with Linda Williams for the student officers as well as two workshops for the Career Specialists. Workshops included: *Webinar Fundamentals 101* presented by Kathy Steil and *JMG High School Curriculum Re-write* presented by Cindy Arnot. The conference concluded with closing comments and a prize drawing.



JMG students representing Montana at the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington D. C. were: Kayla Reichelt, Mackenzie Lapke, Jana Tihista, Alacia Cole, Brielle Harding and Brooke Marshall.

Winning Logo

This year's winning logo is the image seen below. The logo was rendered by the Plains High School JMG class. Robert Hick's design was picked by the rest of the class to represent Plains in the logo competition. The design will be used throughout the school year on letterhead, t-shirts and other documents. Congratulations Plains High School for drawing such a creative and intricate design for this year's logo.



Inside this issue:

National Student Leadership Conference	2
Nashua Student Is AgCareers Essay Winner	2
Scobey Student Wins National Employability Competition	2
Texting to the Oldies at C R Anderson Middle	3
Judith Gap Gives Back	3
Into the Wilderness With Whitefish Independent School	3
Around the State	4



The JMG students from Butte High School were recently inducted into the Montana Career Association at their Initiation and Installation Ceremony.



NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE—WASHINGTON D.C.



JMG students representing Montana have their photo taken in front of the U.S. Capitol.



Arlington National Cemetery

"To me, agriculture means a source of food, a form of recreation, and a way to make a living."

-Jana Tihista,
Nashua student
& AgCareers Essay
Winner

Six talented JMG students from around the state were chosen to represent Montana at the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) National Student Leadership Conference held November 19-21 in Washington D.C. Five students won the all-expense paid trip by competing in the essay contest held at the JMG Fall Leadership Conference. Those representing Montana were: Alacia Cole (Glasgow High School), Brielle Harding (Helena PAL), Mackenzie Lapke (Scobey High School), Brooke Marshall (Bridger High School), and Kayla Reichelt (Havre High School). The sixth student, Jana Tihista (Nashua High School), won her trip by placing first in a national essay writing contest sponsored by AgCareers.

The three day conference was attended by over 470 students and career specialists and consisted of leadership sessions, competitions, and touring our nation's capital. Attendees heard from speakers from all over the nation, including: Ken Smith, president of Jobs for

America's Graduates; Governor John Baldacci of Maine; and Katie Stam, Miss America 2009, among many other distinguished guests.

Two Montana students were highlighted at the conference. JMG student Jana Tihista was asked to read her winning essay at the opening conference dinner. Mackenzie Lapke, who competed in the competitive event for Employability Skills, won first place out of all the states in attendance. The other four Montana students competed in either Public Speaking or the Employability Skills Event and also represented Montana well by giving excellent presentations to the judges.

Besides attending leadership training and competing in events, JMG students had the opportunity to explore many of Washington D.C.'s highlights. They toured the city and saw such places as the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monu-

ment, the Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, Vietnam, WWII, and Korean Memorials; Arlington National Cemetery, and the Smithsonian Museums. There was also time for shopping, conference dance, and the talent show, which showcased students in attendance from 21 states.



All JMG junior and senior students have the opportunity to compete for this all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. by entering the essay writing competitive event held before the JMG Fall Leadership Conference each year. Enter the competition and write an essay; you could be one of the lucky students going to Washington D.C. in 2010!

NASHUA STUDENT WINS NATIONAL AGCAREERS ESSAY

Jana Tihista, Nashua JMG student, recently won an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for the National Student Leadership Conference. Tihista's winning essay was sponsored by AgCareers, a company with an innovative approach to increase interest in career opportunities in the agribusiness industry.

Her essay on "What Does Agriculture Mean to You?" received the highest marks out of more than 80 entries nationwide! Throughout her essay, Tihista pointed out very basic ways

that agriculture is a part of our everyday lives and how easily this can be overlooked by the general public. She shared that while other students were participating in after school sports and clubs, she was helping on the farm/ranch.

She concluded with an explanation of how farming is a way to make a living and although the hard work and demanding hours are worthwhile, she found the work to be a great form of recreation, which also taught her about team work and goal setting.



SCOBEY STUDENT WINS NATIONAL EMPLOYABILITY EVENT

Mackenzie Lapke, JMG student from Scobey, won the Employability Skills Event that was held recently at the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. Lapke's competition was one of two competitive events that are held annually.

Students entered in the Employability Skills Event must complete a Cover Letter, Application for Employment and participate in an Interview. There were 33 contestants from all over the United States.

Mackenzie Lapke shown at right with Miss America 2009 Katie Stam.



"It was an awesome experience. I learned so much, not only about our nation's capital, but also about myself."

-Mackenzie Lapke,
National
Employability Skills
Winner



JMG Students from Montana wait for the opening session of the 17th annual National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) that was held at the Gaylord National Resort in Washington D.C.

C R ANDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TEACH TECHNOLOGY

The JMG students at C R Anderson Middle School have been holding a class of another kind recently. Twice weekly they offer their expertise to the older generation with helpful tips on operating digital cameras, texting with cellular phones, email functions and many other computer-related processes.

The kids came up with the idea and asked their teacher, Barb Cooper, if they could do this in an effort to assist the elderly in their community. Barb thought it was a great idea and now the students are teaching parents and grandparents how to operate their digital cameras, upload photos on their

PCs at home, email their friends and family members as well as texting on their phones.

Erica Prendergast taught Mr. and Mrs. McGuire how to load their pictures from their digital camera onto their computer and how to email the pictures to other people. Ms. Cooper commented, "They couldn't get the school computers to do all the right things, but they took notes, went home and did it all by themselves!" Ms. Cooper also mentioned that Mrs. McGuire was very excited to learn how to email pictures of her grandbabies!



JMG student Erica Prendergast showing Mr. and Mrs. McGuire the basics in digital camera functions.

C R Anderson JMG students Sydne Jacoby and Rylie Warren teach Nancy how to attach and email messages and photos.



JUDITH GAP GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



Students from Sandy Woldstad's JMG class in Judith Gap prepared and served Thanksgiving Dinner for the

school and senior citizens in their community. The students cooked turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, cranberries, rolls and pumpkin dessert. Mrs. Woldstad commented that they do this activity annually and it is a good opportunity for the school to recognize the seniors and give back to the community. She added that the students did a



wonderful job and that the meal was delicious!

Alan Ross, Chance Merrill, Tyler Wheatley, Taylor Brook, Casey Philippi, Cody Johnson and Trevor Berg are seen preparing and serving Thanksgiving Dinner to families and friends in Judith Gap.



A TRAIL RUNS THROUGH IT

Whitefish Independent High School JMG students took a day off from their regular schedule to help with the *Trail Runs Through It* project north of Whitefish. The *Trail Runs Through It* is a trail building project



that was brought about by a group of local community members in collaboration with the City of Whitefish, State Lands (DNRC) and US National Forest Service. WIHS students and JMG members have been working together to build community awareness and the trail project was another opportunity for these students to make community connections. The day began as Project Coordina-

tor, Dave Noftsinger, handed out tools and hardhats and directed students on the tasks of trail blazing. The students trimmed branches and roots, raked and shoveled the slope, dug trenches and spread seed. After the morning's work and hike, they found themselves on the hilltop overlooking a spectacular view of Skyles Lake. As they were eating lunch and enjoying the scene, JMG President Merrill Thomas said "The next thing we should do is work the soup kitchen for the homeless." "One of the main goals at our school is to make community connections to build citizenship, and our students are always coming up with great ideas for doing just that," said Beth Beaulieu, teacher at WIHS. Karen Cordi, who has been working with the school since its beginning



in 1999 coordinated the trail blazing project with Noftsinger. The students have recently been working together to bond and build strong relationships, and Cordi thought that the trail project would be beneficial in achieving that goal. "The day gave us the opportunity to talk with each other and get to know one another better, all in process of doing a worthwhile community project," said Cordi. The students gained awareness of this wonderful project and are already talking about their future use of the trail. Several of the students are excited about heading up the trail on their mountain bikes. JMG Social Activities VP Jessica Gutierrez said, "projects like this really are bringing us closer together as a group." One day these students can walk this beautiful trail with their children and share how they helped to create it.

"Projects like this really are bringing us closer together as a group."

-Jessica Gutierrez,
JMG student from
Whitefish
Independent HS





JMG students Alexis Scott and Maria Wind from Culbertson help carry the banner in the Suicide Prevention Walk held at Fort Kipp.



Butte High Students preparing for their Initiation & Installation Ceremony. Amy Stops has been the JMG Career Specialist at Butte High and Webster Garfield for the last 10 years.

Culbertson students at the Fall Leadership Conference



Students playing the role card game at the Fall Leadership Conference. Over 240 students, teachers and special guests attended this year's conference that was held at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena October 27th.



Dillon Thomas and Laurel Myers, students at Bridger High School and members of the JMG class make up one of the ten teams selected nationwide for the National Keep the Drive Crew sponsored by the Allstate Foundation. The goal of the program is to offer defensive driving tips to teens and to promote smart driving.



Bridger Career Fair



As part of their Program of Work, the Whitehall JMG students were busy painting doors at the school. They also assist in the lunchroom for the grade school children. Just recently Whitehall held their first Career Fair on Friday, November 20th. A future project for the class is to take part in the food drive for the local food bank.



Whitehall JMG Students

Helena High School's Think Pink Campaign

For the month of October, the HHS JMG classes conducted a cancer awareness campaign. The students designed and sold Think Pink t-shirts, held a silent auction at the cross-town volleyball match and encouraged students and staff to wear their "Think Pink" t-shirts at all October sporting events. The students sold 475 t-shirts. The profits, \$800, were donated to the St. Peter's Hospital Cancer Center in Helena.



Helena High School JMG students sort through their t-shirts before distributing them to students and staff at HHS



Glasgow students participating in teamwork activities

1000 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.81 per copy, for a total cost of \$812.00, which includes printing and distribution fees.



Jobs for Montana's Graduates

PO Box 1728

Helena, Montana 59624-1728

406-444-0978

<http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/jmg/jmg.asp>

Drea Brown
dbrown@mt.gov
406-444-0978

Lucille Thomason
lthomason@mt.gov
406-444-2534

Jim Lambert
jlambert@mt.gov
406-444-3354

Jenny Veltri
jveltri@mt.gov
406-444-1713